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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**FRESNO MAN SENTENCED TO 78 MONTHS FOR POSSESSING
IMAGES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that ADAM CASSLE, 28, of Fresno, California was sentenced on March 16, 2007, by United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill to a prison term of 78 months as a result of his conviction for possession of visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. The court also imposed a term of supervised release of 120 months and a penalty assessment of \$100. CASSLE will be required to register as a sex offender, and other provisions of his supervised release will restrict his access to children, computers and the internet.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The investigation in this case was undertaken as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). PSC is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the number of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies and organizations to increase law enforcement presence on the Internet, and to educate the public about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the risk that children might fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafefchildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

CASSLE came to the attention of law enforcement after information from ICE agents in Oregon assisted in determining that he was making available images of child pornography from his computer in Fresno. Following a consent search of the defendant's computer, agents found approximately 250 images of child pornography on the computer hard drive which included images of minors engaged in sadistic or masochistic conduct or other violence.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sheila Oberto, who prosecuted the case, CASSLE admitted, as part of his plea agreement, that he possessed images of prepubescent minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, that some of the images depicted violence or sadistic or masochistic conduct, and that he used a computer in the commission of the offense. CASSLE has been detained in federal custody since his arrest on October 13, 2006.

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